



City Currents

Spring 2019





Mayor's Farewell

As I near the completion of my fourth and final year of serving you as Mayor, let's pause to celebrate the amazing community that we all call home. Like many of you, I chose to make West U my home and the place where my family is raised because of the outstanding quality of life, the small town feel, and excellent city amenities. Every day as I leave downtown Houston for home, I am struck with how quickly you can leave behind the frenzy of the nation's 4th largest city and be on the leafy, quiet streets of West U in a matter of minutes. It has been an honor to be a part of what makes West U the most sought-after neighborhood in Houston — our beautiful parks and public spaces, a charming city center, enviable safety and security, and proximity to downtown, the Texas Medical Center, and other business hubs.

During my time as Mayor, city staff has executed notable milestones that preserve and protect West U for generations to come:

Flood Mitigation & Resiliency

Living at near-sea-level poses unique challenges, and our work to reduce the impact of the inevitable flooding is work that never stops. It's the reason Council passed an ordinance that **raises the minimum elevation of new homes**, commissioned a citywide drainage study, and worked with regional agencies to **utilize city-owned property within our watershed** for detention. Most recently, West U has applied to participate in the **FEMA Community Rating System**, which will provide discounts to a portion of resident policyholders. Taken together, these efforts will help us weather the next big storm.

Security Technology

It's sometimes easy to forget that our quiet neighborhood sits in the middle of a dense urban center and we must stay ahead of the curve when it comes to our safety and security. That's why in 2017, City Council approved the Virtual Gate project, which is a **citywide project to install license plate reader cameras** along the perimeter of West U. By scanning the license plates of vehicles entering and exiting West U, WUPD can "have eyes" in more places and potentially thwart crime before it happens, as well as, another tool to help solve crime that does happen.

Keeping West U Green

I am especially proud of the advancements made in our park system and recycling efforts. Most notably, the city opened our **newest park, Jenny Elizabeth Hughes Park**, in 2018. Less noticeable yet strategically significant, our Parks Board amended **our Parks Master Plan** so that we have greater flexibility in how and when we refurbish existing parks. After much planning and negotiation, we now have citywide **green waste collection**. This seemingly small change kept enormous amounts of yard waste out of our regular trash collection and local landfills. It's both good for our city and our bottom line. That's why it's no surprise that we have been a designated Scenic City since 2013.

It has been my honor to serve you these last four years. Please join me for a final State of the City on April 16, at the Community Center, 6104 Auden Street, at 6:30 pm, followed by a town hall meeting on the Virtual Gate project where residents can learn more about our next step towards crime prevention.

From Council Member Mardi Turner

Time flies when you're having fun...

This is my final City Currents submission, and I wanted to review some of the things that your City Council has accomplished in the last four years.

Parks and Recreation completed a comprehensive parks inventory and conducted an evaluation of each of our parks. As a result, we have amended the Parks Master Plan to focus on refurbishing our parks rather than rebuilding each one from scratch.

We christened our newest park in October 2018. Jennie Elizabeth Hughes Park was created on land donated by long-time resident, James Hughes, in memory of his mother. A citizen task force and White Oak Studio created a quiet park with an open “back yard” with seating on the “front porch.” The water feature is my favorite element.

Public Works performed a comprehensive study of city drainage challenges and prioritized needed improvements, taking advantage of any and all grant funding sources. One result of this effort is 80% funding for the repaving of Buffalo Speedway.

Public Works also revamped our bulk trash collection from twice a year at a central location to weekly at our homes and restarted green waste collection, so that lawn and garden clippings go to a composting facility instead of being taken to the dump.

The Police Department and our IT staff initiated work on a virtual gateway system that will include camera surveillance at all of our entry points, enabling the PD to better track criminal activity in our neighborhood.

Finance is hard at work assisting our citizens in setting up paperless billing for utilities as well as automated payment using a credit card or a bank account debit.

We bid farewell to Chris Peifer and welcomed Dave Beach as our new City Manager. One project that passed from Chris to Dave was working with a vendor to obtain 100% renewable source electricity for the city. And we are finally ready to rehabilitate our animal shelter down on Brays Bayou.

It has been my pleasure to serve on your City Council. I'll be sorry to turn in my badge.



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Parks and Recreation



La Fête du Jardin (The Garden Party)

Neighbors and friends enjoyed a spectacular evening at the annual Park Lovers' Ball themed La Fête du Jardin (The Garden Party) in February raising \$425,000. The Event Honoree was long time generous corporate supporter Conway MacKenzie represented by John T. Young, Jr., Houston Senior Managing Director and Friends Advisory Board member. Local talent Ilona Carson of ABC 13 emceed the party. Event Co-Chairs Jennifer and Scott Allison, Megan and Brian Cushing, Stephanie and Ryan Fleck and Caroline and Kevin Walter, along with many volunteers, created a memorable evening for all guests including "swag bags" sponsored by Houston Pediatric Dental Specialists; a living topiary; a lively game of "Heads or Tails" sponsored by Claudette Toomey, Realtor – Taylor Real Estate; a wine pull sponsored by the Sugar Land Skeeters; a whiskey blackjack game sponsored by Compass Real Estate; a photo booth sponsored by Heidi Dugan, Realtor – Greenwood King Properties; and dancing to Doppelganger until midnight. Our wonderful and generous spotlight underwriters included Iris and Nathan Allen, Jennifer and Scott Allison/Stephanie and Ryan Fleck, Cammarata Pediatric Dentistry Group, CenterPoint Energy, Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital, Megan and Brian Cushing/Caroline and Kevin Walter, Jones Day, Kirkland & Ellis, Mandy Rochelle Designs, Jane and Harry Pefanis and Sarrah and Jim Petersen. Thank you also to the following generous underwriters: BB&T/Charissa and Brannon Fitch, Logan Brown Investment Real Estate LLC, Allison and Michael Casey/Luvi and Carlos Wheelock, Clearstream Financial-Christine and Owen Parker/Sami and Jud Morrison, Greenwood King Properties, Kimberly and John Carr Eads, Elite Care Emergency Center – Rice Village, Amy and Gary Haymond/Joanna and Brad Marks/Hannah and Cal McNair, IBC Bank, Ellen and Nelson Mabry, Colleen and Bill O'Brien, Sami and Jud Morrison, Starflite Aviation, Stewart Title Kirby-Bree Knodel/The Swallen Mortgage Team, The Woman's Hospital of Texas, Transwestern, Vinson & Elkins LLP and Kelly and Mike Wojtasek. We are grateful to all of our generous sponsors: Greenwood King Properties, invitations; Cara and Chad Michael, libations; PwC, floral centerpieces; Ginny Jackson and David Houston/New Leaf Real Estate, yard signs; Rice Village, auction catalogs; Village Plumbing & Air, table programs; Locke Lord LLP, gala greenery; Brookfield Properties, event photography; and Tal Gospin, MD/Pediatric Cardiology Care, auction bags. Thank you to our Pret-A-Party sponsors: Bree Knodel, Stewart Title Kirby/The Swallen Mortgage Team; RLD Imports/Mandy Rochelle Designs; Laura Rathe Fine Art and Pizza Motus, and to our fabulous in-kind donors: Jentry Kelley Cosmetics, The Perfect Touch, and Qtego.

Next up for Friends

- Party on the Patio Concert series sponsored by Jones Day to be held on Friday evenings in June.
- The 13th annual Fathers & Flashlights campout November 2 – 3, chaired by Michelle and Doug Huth, Sami and Jud Morrison and Christine and Owen Parker. (Registration for the campout will be online in August)

Sign up at www.westuparks.org to receive email alerts including registration for Fathers & Flashlights and information on Park Lovers' Ball (February 8, 2020). For information about Friends and upcoming events, please contact Friends Executive Director, Donna LaMond, at (713) 662-7430 or DLaMond@WestUTX.gov.

Special Events

Easter Spring Festival & Arbor Day

The Easter Bunny is coming! The City of West University Place Parks & Recreation Department will host the annual Easter/Spring Celebration, with a special visit from the Easter Bunny and his good friend Wally the Walrus. The event will be Saturday, April 13 from 9:00 – 11:00 am at the athletic fields next to the Recreation Center at 4210 Bellaire Blvd. The city's Urban Forester, Craig Koehl will also be on hand giving away new trees to residents. Admission to this event is complimentary. Remember to stop by the Recreation Center to submit your guess on the number of eggs in the Di-Eggo Tower. Di-Eggo will be on display beginning March 23, with winners announced during the Easter Spring Festival.

Membership has its Benefits

Members Only “Sneak Peak” Swim at Colonial Park Pool

Join us for a special Colonial Park Pool Members Only “Sneak Peak” Swim! The 2019 Summer Season kickoff party for Colonial Park Pool Members will be Saturday, May 4 from 12:00 – 6:00 pm. Don't have a membership yet? Purchase yours in advance at the Recreation Center, 4210 Bellaire Blvd., or buy one at the door to get into the party!

Colonial Park Pool opens to residents and their guests on weekends beginning Sunday, May 5, until the summer schedule is in full swing. For a complete operational schedule of Colonial Park Pool spring and summer hours, log onto www.westutx.gov/Colonial.

Mom's Spa Day

West U resident mothers are invited to relax and enjoy a special day out at Colonial Park Pool Sunday, May 19 from 9:00 – 11:00 am. Enjoy a kid-free day by the pool, complete with breakfast, pampering, raffle prizes and fun.

The event is limited to the first 60 registrants. Priority registration for Colonial Park Pool Members begins April 1. Open registration begins April 15. Admission is complimentary for members, and \$10 for non-members.

Interested in registering? Call (713) 662-7420 or visit www.westutx.gov/events.

Note: Colonial Park Pool will open to the public at noon after the event!

Ice Cream Social

Colonial Park Pool members are invited to enjoy the end of the 2018 – 2019 school year at the pool on May 31, from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Celebrate with music and complimentary sundaes after your last day of school. This event is exclusive to Colonial Park Pool members, no exceptions.

Interested in a Colonial Park Pool membership? Call (713) 662-7420 for details.

Party on the Patio Concert Series

Fridays: June 7, 14, 21, and 28, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Colonial Park Pool Deck, 4130 Byron St.

Enjoy a fantastic lineup with some of Houston's best-known bands!

Fan favorites the Fab 5 will kick off the first Party on the Patio concert of the season at Colonial Park Pool June 7. The *Party on the Patio* Concert Series is sponsored by Jones Day and benefits the Friends of West University Place Parks Fund, Inc.

Concerts will be held on four consecutive Fridays in June from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. Blankets and lawn chairs are permitted, and concessions will be available for purchase from Jami's Fine Foods. No alcohol or pets permitted.

Party on the Patio is a complimentary concert event for West U residents and guests; however regular pool admission applies to those who choose to swim. Visit the Parks & Recreation Special Events page at www.westutx.gov/events for a complete schedule or call (713) 662-7420 for more information.

June 7: Fab 5

June 14: Dee Dee & Mike and the Moondance Band

June 21: Mango Punch

June 28: Vital Signs



Lifeguard Certification Courses

Are you 15 or older and looking for a great summer job, after-school activity, or a challenging career in aquatics? Lifeguarding puts you in an exciting position, working as part of a team to help people safely enjoy the water. You'll develop skills and experiences valued by colleges and future employers. Participants must pass a pre-requisite skills swimming test which will be administered a week before class starts. The price is \$170 for residents and \$185 for non-residents, plus an online fee required by the American Red Cross. For specific dates and more information about this class, please call the Recreation Center at (713) 662-7420 or visit our website www.westutx.gov/reg.

Outdoor Event Series

Enjoy a pleasant evening underneath the stars with entertainment from your favorite eras. Each event is an informal event designed for all audiences. Be sure to bring a blanket and picnic basket for a great family or date night. For more information call (713) 662-7420 or go to www.westutx.gov/events.

Location: Colonial Park Pavilion

Time: performances begin at 7:00 pm

April 5: Texas Brass Ensemble

April 12: The Crescent Circus

April 26: Houston Brass Quintet

Summer Registration Dates

West U Summer programs are here. Are you looking to continue a favorite program that you've participated in within the past 30 days? Then take advantage of priority registration beginning April 2 at 5:00 am at the West University Recreation Center, 4210 Bellaire Blvd. *(Priority registration is not available online).

If you're looking to try something new and are a West U resident, registration opens April 9. If you don't live in West U, but you still want to try our amazing programs, then come on over, we'd love to have you! Registration for non-residents begins April 11. Both resident and non-resident registration are available in-person at the West U Rec Center and online! Check out all of the programs in advance and register at www.westutx.gov/reg. Space is limited in many classes, so be sure to mark your calendars!

Safety and Public Works



When Every Second Counts You need a DirectLink to Police, Fire and EMS Services

What is DirectLink? DirectLink is an alarm-monitoring program offered by the City of West University Place Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) departments only available to West U residents.

If you choose DirectLink, whether it's a wireless AES radio, traditional phone line or VoIP phone (internet phone, i.e. Uverse/Xfinity), the signal is sent directly to our Emergency Communication Center.

Benefits of DirectLink?

- No third-party connection
- No contract — Just \$35 a month, billed to your utility statement
- Connects directly to the West U 911 Emergency Dispatch Center

For more information, visit www.westutx.gov/directlink or call (713) 662-5860 to speak with the DirectLink Coordinator.

Cutting Down on Junk Mail

Approximately 5.6 million tons of junk mail ends up in American landfills every year. We can always recycle the paper, but the better way to reduce the amount that goes to the landfill is to reduce the amount we receive.

Fortunately, with a little effort, and just a bit of money, there are a few things you can do to substantially reduce the amount of junk mail you receive.

- Visit the Direct Marketers Association website, www.dmachoice.org, and sign up to remove your name from their many member mailing lists. They have thousands of member companies that use their services and mailing lists. There is a \$2 fee to unsubscribe from these lists and it usually takes about 90 days for most of the junk mail their members send to stop. This small fee, good for several years, will stop a significant amount of junk mail
- Tired of unsolicited credit card applications? Visit www.optoutprescreen.com and click on the Opt In or Opt Out link at the bottom of the page and choose a 5-year removal or permanent removal for these credit card lists.
- Still receiving phone books? Go to www.dexpages.com and click on the Yellow to Green Opt-out of Phone book delivery near the bottom of the page.

Taking it one step further, you can also go to three smaller direct marketing databases and get off their lists. They are:

- **www.catalogchoice.org**
Click on Cancel a Catalog at the top of the screen and then do a search and cancel specific catalogs.
- **www.valpak.com/coupons/show/maillinglistsuppression**
Complete the form to allow you to remove your address from the Valpak blue envelope mailing list.
- **www.redplum.com/tools/redplum-postal-addremove.html**
Complete the form to allow you to remove your address from the Redplum mailing list.

By opting for these choices, you should be able to reduce most of the junk mail you receive. Watch out for contests and free offers because entering the contests or responding to free offers could add you back onto some of the junk mail lists.

If you want to reduce the number of free newspapers and free magazines that are delivered to your doorstep, in most cases, a call or an e-mail to the publisher should stop delivery of those items.

If after you have done all of the above to reduce the amount of junk mail you receive you still receive some junk mail, don't trash it, just recycle it.



Upcoming Composting Workshop

When: May 4, 2019

Where: West U Rec. Center, 4210 Bellaire Blvd.

Time: 9:00 – 11:00 am

Join West U resident Steve Stelzer, who has successfully backyard composted for 15 years and who has facilitated a STAR Master Composter Training course for the City of Houston the past three years. Steve presents slides, samples, demonstrations and resources to give you the confidence to do it yourself and succeed. This two-hour course is for people who want to learn how to compost in their backyard and for people who have tried and experienced some difficulty. This course is FREE to residents (\$10 for non-residents). Participants will also have an opportunity to win a backyard composter (valued at \$100).

Register in person at the West University Place Recreation Center, or online by visiting www.westutx.gov/reg (Activity/Event #106022-01)

Please contact the Parks Department at (713) 662-7420 for more information or assistance in registering for this event.

We Need Your Help to Keep West U Green.

Approximately 85% of West U utility customers still receive monthly paper statements.

Please help us to reduce this percentage for a greener future.

To get started, please reference your account number and email us at billinghelp@westutx.gov or call (713) 662-5824 to enroll in electronic statements.



"Today, more and more people are concerned about climate change. And when they think about their carbon footprint, they think about biking to work instead of taking their car. What they're not thinking about is that one of the biggest contributors to greenhouse gases is actually the food that they're throwing away."

– Eve Turow Paul, *WASTED!*

SAVE THE DATE Paper Shredding/E-Waste/ Mattress Collection Event

When: Saturday May 4, 2019

Where: 3826 Milton St.

Hours: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Shredding is limited to five banker boxes per household. No business or commercial shredding is accepted. This event is open to west university place residents only. Proof of residency is required.

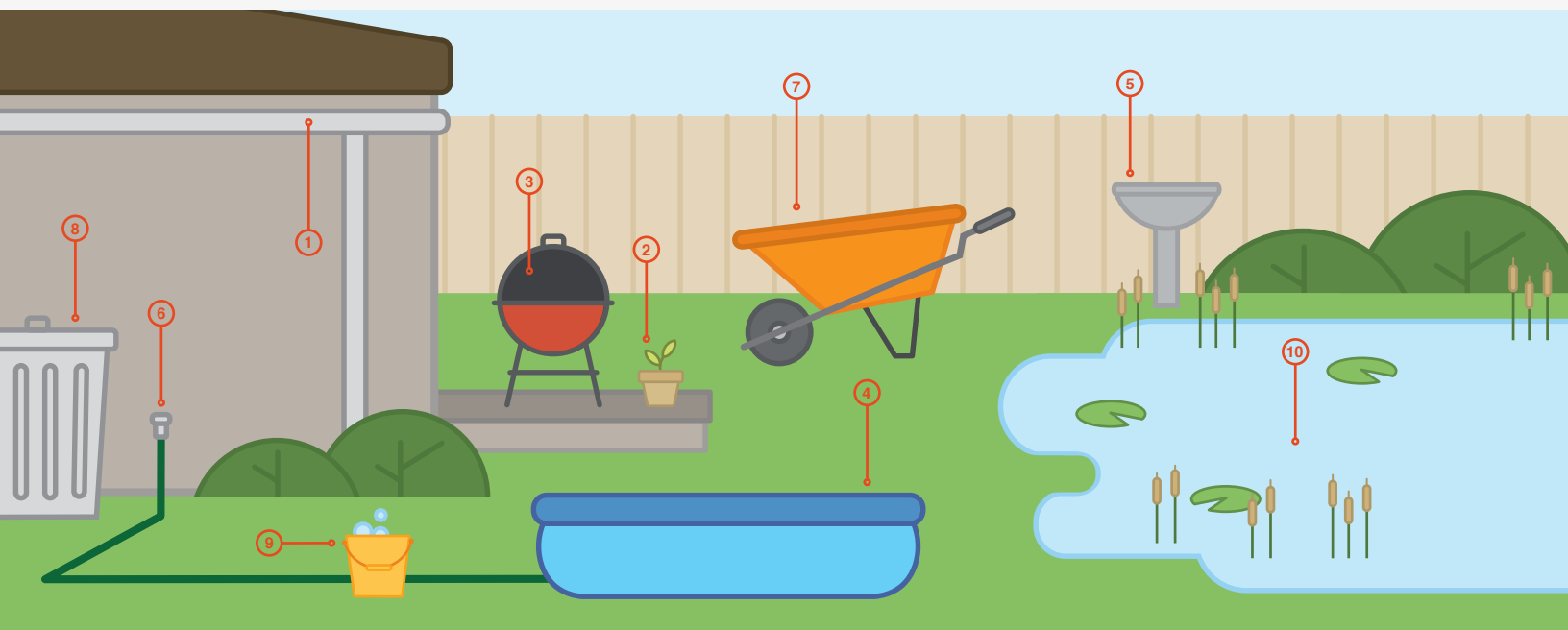
Defend Yourself Against Mosquito Bites

Practice the 4 D's to prevent mosquito bites:

1. **Drain/Dump:** drain or dump out any standing water around your yard.
2. **Day, Dusk and Dark:** Mosquitoes are active at all times and bite anytime the temperature rises above 55° F.
3. **Dress:** wear long sleeves and pants when outdoors. Choose fabrics with a tight weave instead of knits or other loosely woven materials. For extra protection you may want to spray thin clothing with repellent.
4. **Deet:** an ingredient to look for in insect repellent. Follow label instructions.

Preventing Mosquito Breeding Grounds Around The House

Are you unknowingly attracting mosquitoes to your property? Mosquitoes can breed in as little as a 1/2 inch of standing water, so even items containing water the size of a bottle cap may be mosquito magnets. The diagram below shows the areas around the home that may be prone to mosquitoes.



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Gutters: Remove leaves and other debris from gutters | 6 Leaky Pipes: Repair any leaky pipes or faucets |
| 2 Flowerpots: Pour out stagnant water from flowerpots and planters | 7 Tires: Drill holes in the bottom of tire swings and wheel barrels to allow water to drain |
| 3 Grill Cover: Make sure water isn't gathering on top of the grill cover | 8 Trash Cans: Ensure trash cans are tightly sealed and lids aren't filled upside down |
| 4 Baby Pool: Don't let water sit in baby pools for long periods of time | 9 Buckets: Remove water collecting in buckets and toys |
| 5 Birdbath: Frequently change out the water in birdbaths | 10 Ponds: Keep swimming pools and ponds adequately treated |

Information from the National Pest Management Association. For more information, visit www.PestWorld.org.

Dog-gone It, That Dog Is Barking Again!

West University Place is a small, family oriented community. As such, we rely on pet owners to control their animal's behavior so that it does not become a nuisance or danger to the community. Dogs that bark and disturb the peace and quiet of the neighborhood are considered a nuisance, and as such, a violation of city ordinance. Continuous barking or repetitive instances of barking might result in a citation for the dog owner to appear in court. For more information, please access www.westutx.gov/316/Barking-Dogs.

If you need to report a barking dog, call (713) 668-0330, the non-emergency police number, and the Animal Control Officer or a Police Officer will be dispatched to investigate.

Hot Dog! Six Common Summer Hazards for Dogs

With summer just around the corner, and temperatures beginning to warm up significantly, you consider the following hazards for your pets that could be lurking outside:

- **Dehydration:** One of the best ways to keep your dog safe in the summertime is by providing lots of cool, clean, fresh water.
- **Burned Pads:** Asphalt on sidewalks and streets can heat to a temperature that can burn a dog's paws. To avoid scorched paws, walk your dog very early in the morning or the late evening when the streets have cooled off.
- **Parasites:** Summer is the season for fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes; pests which can present a minor discomfort to your dog at best and at worst may be life-threatening or cause self-mutilating behaviors. Cleaning areas your dog frequents and keeping him well groomed will reduce the risk of parasite infestation.
- **Heat Stroke:** Heat stroke is a serious risk to your dog's health — in worst case scenarios, it can be fatal. Prevent heatstroke by restricting your pet's exercise during the hottest hours of the day (early morning or late evening are the best times for exercise during the summer), by making sure he's well hydrated and has cool places to relax. You can provide opportunities to swim, cooling mats, and of course, never leaving your dog unattended in the car. Even at 70° F on a sunny day, after a half hour, the temperature inside a car is 104° F.
- **Leptospirosis:** Contracted through bodily fluids or tissue, Leptospirosis can be transmitted through direct (a bite or ingestion of flesh) or indirect contact (through water sources, food, etc.) with an infected animal. Stagnant waters are a common source of leptospirosis bacteria.
- **Seasonal Allergies:** Your dog may be allergic to one or more seasonal items, which include fleas, grass and various plants, and mold. If you suspect your dog may have seasonal allergies, is scratching and perhaps losing fur, a visit to your vet is recommended.

Let's keep our furry friends as healthy as we can. Also remember to vaccinate and register your dogs and cats and keep all dogs on a leash or in a secured enclosure at all times. If you have any questions or need more information, contact Animal Control at (713) 662-5831.



Things to Know

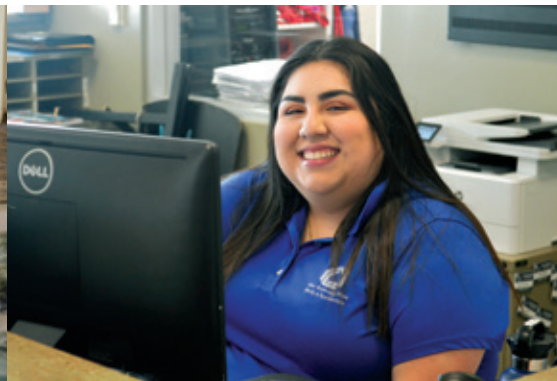


Short Term Rentals – Airbnbs

Most zoning in West U is Single Family Residential (SFR) which allows one dwelling plus one accessory quarters on a lot. The zoning ordinance stipulates who may reside in the accessory quarters. City ordinance does not allow for temporary or short term rentals, defined as less than 30 consecutive days, in SFR districts.

Temporary or short term rentals, or Airbnbs, are only allowed in non-residential zoning districts after meeting a strict list of requirements and obtaining a permit.

If you have any questions on whether a use is allowed in your zoning district, please contact the City at (713) 662-5839 or pwinfo@westutx.gov.



City of
**West University
Place**

Now Hiring!

Fun Environment, flexible hours, and competitive pay!

- Lifeguards
- Front-desk
- Swim Instructors
- and more!

The West University Recreation Center & Colonial Park Pool is hiring part-time employees. Positions available are customer service team member, swim instructor, and lifeguard. If you are interested in excellent starting pay, flexible schedules, a team atmosphere, the potential for advancement and a fun place to work, then West U is the place for you. For more information call (713) 662-7420, visit www.westutx.gov, or pick up an application at the Recreation Center at 4210 Bellaire Blvd.

NOTICE OF THE MAY 4, 2019 GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS

Registered voters of West University Place are encouraged to vote on May 4, in the general election to elect a Mayor and four Council Members and in the special election to vote on propositions for Charter amendments.

When to vote on Election Day: The polls will be open from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm

Where to vote on Election Day: City Hall, 3800 University Blvd.

Residents can now vote at any Harris County polling location for both early voting *and* on election day.

For more information, or to obtain this and other election information in Spanish, contact one of the following:

Para obtener más información, o para obtener esta y otra información sobre las elecciones en español, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes:

Harris County Clerk's Office
(713) 755-6965
www.harrisvotes.com

City Secretary Thelma Gilliam
(713) 662-5813
tgilliam@westutx.gov

Important Dates

April 4 **Last Day to Register to Vote and Change Address**

Last day for submitting voter registration application in time to vote in this election or for requesting transfer of registration in time to vote in new precinct not in the same county or territory.

April 19 **Deadline to Submit Application for Ballot by Mail (in person by 5:30 pm)**

Application for Ballot for Mail must be received in person no later than the close of business.

April 23 **Deadline to Submit Application for Ballot by Mail (by mail by 5:30 pm)**

Application for a Ballot by Mail must be received by mail no later than the close of business.

April 22 – April 27, April 30 **Early Voting By Personal Appearance**

The nearest location for early voting will be at the Fiesta Mart located at 8130 Kirby, Houston, Texas. The hours and additional polling locations within Harris County will be posted on the City's website after confirmation from the County.

For the most up-to-date information, visit www.westutx.gov.

Ballot Information

Propositions to amend the Charter

(In the order and language as they will appear on the ballot)

Position A

Authorize an amendment to Article II, Section 2.03 of the charter relating to the limit on successive terms for mayor and council, to increase the number of successive terms from two (2) to three (3).

☐ FOR ☐ AGAINST

Position B

Authorize an amendment to Article II, Section 2.05 of the charter relating to vacancies on city council, to require city council to fill a vacancy on city council by appointment within sixty (60) days and remove a special election for the matter in accordance with state law.

☐ FOR ☐ AGAINST

Position C

Authorize an amendment to Article II, Section 2.07 of the charter relating to the mayor pro tem, to require city council to elect a mayor pro tem within sixty (60) days in the event of a vacancy.

☐ FOR ☐ AGAINST

Position D

Authorize an amendment to Article X, Section 10.13 of the charter relating to charter review, to increase the charter review committee from seven (7) to nine (9) residents of the city.

☐ FOR ☐ AGAINST

City of West University Place Mayor (two-year term).
Pick none or one.

☐ Bob Higley

City of West University Place Council Members
(two-year terms). Pick none, 1, 2, 3, or 4.

☐ John P. Barnes

☐ Lauri Lankford

☐ Kevin Trautner

☐ Ed Sobash

City Currents

A Newsletter for the citizens of
City of West University Place

Spring 2019



City of West University Place
3800 University Blvd.
West University Place, TX 77005

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CITY OF WEST U OFFICIALS

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS Mayor Susan Sample
Mayor Pro Tem Mardi Turner
Kevin Boyle
Kellye Burke
Bob Higley

CITY MANAGER Dave Beach
dbeach@westutx.gov

GENERAL INFORMATION (713) 668-4441

CITY WEBSITE www.westutx.gov

City Currents is a quarterly publication
and is printed on recycled paper.

For questions and comments about
City Currents, contact Patricia Jett at
(713) 662-5384 or pjett@westutx.gov.

Design by Minor Design

Virtual Gate

West U's Very Own State of the Art Security Camera System

Security cameras have long been an effective crime-fighting tool for homes, public spaces, and businesses alike. They serve as both a deterrent and a legal tool in solving those crimes that do occur. Expanding on this concept, the West University Place City Council has approved funding for security cameras at all entrances into the city.

The cameras will include license plate recognition (LPR) technology, which is the same technology currently being used on a few of the police patrol cars. The cameras are a passive, non-monitored system and the images captured by the system create a searchable data base of license plates numbers that be used by the Police Department to help narrow possible leads for crimes in the area, as well as, help notify patrol officers of stolen vehicles, amber alerts and more.

The project will be completed in two phases with an estimated cost of \$4.5 million. Phase I will install cameras at 14 major intersections with the award of the contract in May and installation starting in July/August 2019. Phase II will install cameras at the remaining 25 intersections with installation expected in the winter of 2019/2020.

The system infrastructure is being designed to access local, state and federal databases, plus support additional and future technological advances that may include facial recognition, motion detection and connecting with private cameras.

Public meetings on this project will be scheduled in April to provide an opportunity for residents to learn more about this project and ask questions.

If you have any questions about this project,
please contact Police Chief Ken Walker at
kwalker@westutx.gov or (713) 662-5860.

